

Response under 37 CFR 1.116
Masao OKUBO et al.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/851,946
Attorney Docket No. 010609

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending in this application. No amendment has been proposed in the Response.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Libretti (U.S. Patent No. 5,187,431).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In Libretti's device, stems 12a and 12b, universal connector 7 and contacts 6 are provided in order to electrically connect test card 10 with probe 5 mounted on the bottom surface of probe card 3. That is, Libretti's probe 5 is not "drooping vertically from said main substrate" and does not meet the limitations of Claim 1 in the present application.

Applicants note that even if the layers of probe card 3 of Libretti were considered to be "laminated separably" it is impossible to reuse worn-out probes in Libretti, unlike the present application.

Applicants also note that probe 5 is mounted on the bottom surface of probe card 3 of Libretti. Probe card 3 is shown as having separate layers. However, if the lowest layer were peeled, probe 5 would drop off along with it. Thus, Libretti's probe card 3 does not have "a plurality of substrates laminated separably" as recited in claim 1.

Applicants submit that the present invention is non-obvious over Libretti. Libretti fails to disclose or suggest a point disclosed in the present application: that reuse of probes worn out and shortened in length can be achieved without removing them from the main substrate, by peeling off

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the lowest substrate (layer) of the lower guide plate to gain enough projection length lost by polishing.

Applicants therefore submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by and, further, is non-obvious over Libretti.

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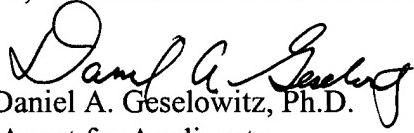
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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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